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Henry Walker  
(615) 252-2363  
Fax (615) 252-6363  
Email hwalker@boultcummings.com

January 22, 2004

Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

Re: *Petition for Arbitration of XO Tennessee, Inc. with BellSouth  
Telecommunications, Inc. Pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of  
1996*  
*Docket No. 03-00630*

*Petition for Arbitration of the Interconnection Agreement between  
BellSouth and XO Tennessee, Inc.*  
*Docket No. 03-00631*

Dear Chairman Tate:

In connection to the above-captioned arbitration petitions, XO and BellSouth jointly request that the Authority appoint a mediator to assist the parties in these proceedings.<sup>1</sup>

Very truly yours,

BOULT, CUMMINGS, CONNERS & BERRY, PLC

By:

Henry Walker

HW/pp

Cc: Guy Hicks

<sup>1</sup> Section 252(a)(2) of the federal Telecommunications Act provides that a party "may, at any point in the negotiation [of an interconnection agreement] ask a state commission to participate in the negotiation and to mediate any differences arising in the course of the negotiation."